

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) In a network including a router and an optical cross-connect system (OXC), a method for responding to a failure, the method comprising:

detecting the failure ~~[[by]]~~ in the router;

sending a signal from the router to the OXC, ~~where wherein~~ the signal indicates the failure; ~~and~~

~~causes~~ causing a working port of the OXC to connect to a protection port of the router in response to detection of the signal to a working port; and

transmitting data from the router to the OXC ~~[[over]]~~ via the protection port.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, ~~where wherein~~ the sending further comprises;

~~the step of~~ sending an in-band signal to the OXC.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, ~~where wherein~~ the sending an in-band signal to the OXC further comprises;

[[the]] sending a Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) signal to the OXC.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, where ~~wherein~~ the sending further comprises:
sending an out-of-band signal to the OXC.
5. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, where ~~wherein~~ the sending an out-of-band signal comprises:
~~the step of~~ addressing the out-of-band signal to an Internet Protocol address associated with the OXC.
6. (currently amended) A method for responding to a failure in a network including a router and an optical cross-connect system (OXC), the method comprising:
receiving a signal at the OXC from the router, the signal indicating [[the]] a failure of a working port in the router; and
connecting a protection port of the router to a working port of the OXC.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, where ~~wherein~~ the receiving further comprises:
receiving an in-band signal at the OXC.
8. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, where ~~wherein~~ the ~~step of~~ receiving an in-band signal at the OXC comprises:

~~the step of~~ receiving a Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) signal at the OXC.

9. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, where ~~wherein~~ the receiving further comprises:

receiving an out-of-band signal at the OXC.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, where ~~wherein~~ the receiving an out-of-band signal further comprises:

addressing the out-of-band signal to an Internet Protocol address associated with the OXC.

11. (currently amended) An optical cross-connect system comprising:

a spare port for transmitting low priority data from a router; and

a working port for transmitting high priority data from a primary router, where the working port ~~connectable~~ is connected to the router ~~responsive~~ in response to a failure of the primary router.

12. (currently amended) The optical cross-connection system of claim 11, where ~~wherein~~ the working port is ~~connectable~~ connected to the router ~~responsive~~ in response to receiving an in-band signal from the router.

13. (currently amended) The optical cross connection system of claim 12, where
~~wherein~~ the working port is ~~connectable~~ connected to the router ~~responsive~~ in response to
receiving a Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) signal from the router.

14. (currently amended) The optical cross-connection system of claim 11, where
~~wherein~~ the working port is ~~connectable~~ connected to the router ~~responsive~~ in response to
receiving an out-of-band signal from the router.

15. (currently amended) A communications network for transmitting data, the
communication network comprising:

a router for receiving the data from a terminal, the router comprising:

a working port for receiving the data from the terminal; and

a protection port for receiving the data from the terminal, ~~responsive~~
in response to a failure of the working port; and

an optical cross-connect system (OXC) for receiving the data from the router, the
optical cross-connect system comprising a working port, where the working port of the
OXC is connected ~~connectable~~ to the protection port of the router, ~~responsive to~~ in
response to a signal received from the router indicating the failure of the working port of
the router.

16. (currently amended) The communications network of claim 15, where
~~wherein~~ the router transmits a signal indicating the failure to the OXC, the signal causing
the OXC to connect the protection port to the working port of the OXC.

17. (currently amended) The communications network of claim 16, where
~~wherein~~ the signal is an in-band signal.

18. (currently amended) The communications network of claim 17, where
~~wherein~~ the in-band signal is a Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) signal.

19. (currently amended) The communications network of claim 16, where
~~wherein~~ the signal is an out-of-band signal.

20. (currently amended) The communications network of claim 19, where
~~wherein~~ the out-of-band signal is addressed to an Internet Protocol address associated
with the OXC.